

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1           1.       A method for automatically installing a software image onto an  
2 information handling system, the method comprising:  
3           reading an order for an information handling system;  
4           reading an image manifest;  
5           installing an image specified by the image manifest onto the information  
6           handling system as installed software; and  
7           automatically configuring the installed software.
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein the configuring includes:  
2           executing order specific customizations.
- 1           3.       The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           determining whether all base components of the order are present in the  
3           image.
- 1           4.       The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           determining whether any subtract components are present in the image; and,  
3           if any subtract components are present, then removing the subtract  
4           components from the installed software while automatically  
5           configuring the installed software.
- 1           5.       The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           determining whether any add components are present in the image; and,  
3           if any add components are present, then installing the add components from  
4           the specified image contents.
- 1           6.       The method of claim 1, wherein:  
2           the automatically configuring is performed at a manufacturing site.
- 1           7.       The method of claim 1, wherein:  
2           the automatically configuring is performed at a customer site.

- 1           8.     The method of claim 1, wherein:  
2           the automatically configuring enables the installing to be performed in a  
3           networkless factory environment.
- 1           9.     The method of claim 1, wherein:  
2           the automatically configuring enables loading of an image directly from a non-  
3           volatile media.
- 1           10.    The method of claim 1, wherein:  
2           the automatically configuring enables a customized to order process to be  
3           performed in a remote manufacturing facility.
- 1           11.    A apparatus for automatically installing a software image onto an  
2           information handling apparatus, the apparatus comprising:  
3           means for reading an order for an information handling system;  
4           means for reading an image manifest;  
5           means for installing an image specified by the image manifest onto the  
6           information handling system as installed software; and  
7           means for automatically configuring the installed software.
- 1           12.    The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for configuring  
2           includes:  
3           means for executing order specific customizations.
- 1           13.    The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:  
2           means for determining whether all base components of the order are present in  
3           the image.
- 1           14.    The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:  
2           means for determining whether any subtract components are present in the  
3           image; and,

4 means for removing the subtract components from the installed software while  
 5 automatically configuring the installed software when any subtract  
 6 components are present.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:  
 2 means for determining whether any add components are present in the image;  
 3 and,  
 4 means for installing the add components from the specified image contents  
 5 when any add components are present.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:  
 2 the means for automatically configuring is located at a manufacturing site.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:  
 2 the means for automatically configuring stored within the information  
 3 handling system and is executed at a customer site.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:  
 2 the means for automatically configuring enables the installing to be performed  
 3 in a networkless factory environment.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:  
 2 the means for automatically configuring enables loading of an image directly  
 3 from a non-volatile media.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:  
 2 the automatically configuring enables a customized to order process to be  
 3 performed in a remote manufacturing facility.

1 21. A system for automatically installing a software image onto an  
 2 information handling system, the system comprising:  
 3 a reading module, the reading module reading an order for an information  
 4 handling system;

5 an image manifest module, the image manifest module reading an image  
6 manifest;  
7 an installing module, the installing module installing an image specified by the  
8 image manifest onto the information handing system as installed  
9 software; and  
10 a configuring module, the configuring module automatically configuring the  
11 installed software.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the configuring module includes:  
2 an executing module, the executing module executing order specific  
3 customizations.

1 23. The system of claim 21, further comprising:  
2 a base component determining module, the base component determining  
3 module determining whether all base components of the order are  
4 present in the image.

1 24. The system of claim 21, further comprising:  
2 a subtract component determining module, the subtract component  
3 determining module determining whether any subtract components are  
4 present in the image; and,  
5 a removing module, the removing module removing the subtract components  
6 from the installed software while automatically configuring the  
7 installed software when any subtract components are present.

1 25. The system of claim 21, further comprising:  
2 an add component determining module, the add component determining  
3 module determining whether any add components are present in the  
4 image; and,  
5 an installing module, the installing module installing the add components from  
6 the specified image contents when any add components are present.

1 26. The system of claim 21, wherein:  
2 the configuring module is located at a manufacturing site.

1           27.    The system of claim 21, wherein:  
2           the configuring module is stored within the information handling system and  
3           is executed at a customer site.

1           28.    The system of claim 21, wherein:  
2           the configuring module enables the installing to be performed in a networkless  
3           factory environment.

1           29.    The system of claim 21, wherein:  
2           the configuring module enables loading of an image directly from a non-  
3           volatile media.

1           30.    The system of claim 21, wherein:  
2           the configuring module enables a customized to order process to be performed  
3           in a remote manufacturing facility.